



### breakout ABSTRACT

Abstract No. 24

#### TITLE

#### OVERVIEW OF DATA ACCESS AND PRIVACY POLICIES RELEVANT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING NETWORK

#### TRACK

Collaboration/Diversity/Coordination

#### OBJECTIVES

Provide an overview of national and state policies that affect access to data, including privacy and confidentiality issues. Illuminate practical issues of the policies for tracking.

#### SUMMARY

Legislation and regulations related to protecting the privacy of individual health data sets are often cited as reasons for controlling or denying access to health data relevant for environmental public health tracking (EPHT). This presentation summarizes a report recently completed for the CDC/NCEH/Environmental Health Tracking Branch of major federal policies, several examples of state policies, and federal/state guidance documents on privacy, data access and confidentiality. The review indicates that data access and privacy policies vary widely by subject, jurisdiction, and within and across levels of government. For many EPHT applications, individually identifiable data can be legally shared and used by public health agencies in accordance with federal policies. State policies are sometimes more stringent, but are difficult to generalize given their variability. This means that state and local participants conducting tracking will need to closely examine the policies in effect within their jurisdictions. The information in the report serves as a high-level reference on several federal laws and regulations related to data access and data privacy.

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